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PATENT

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Naoki TADA et al.  
U.S. Serial No.: Filed Concurrently Herewith  
Int'l Appln. No.: PCT/JP03/02412  
Int'l Filing Date: March 3, 2003  
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND IMAGE  
PROCESSING PROGRAM AND IMAGE PROCESSING  
METHOD

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
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Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows: